

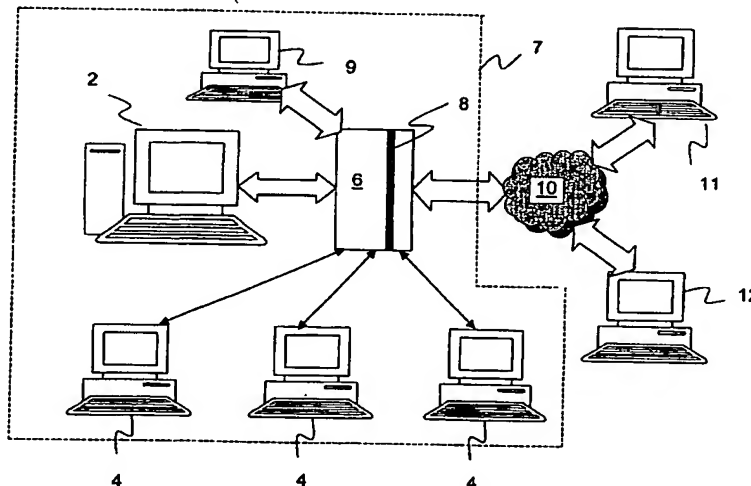
(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
15 January 2004 (15.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/006520 A1**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04L 12/66**, 29/08
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/AU2003/000860**
- (22) International Filing Date: **3 July 2003 (03.07.2003)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:  
PS 3391 **4 July 2002 (04.07.2002)** **AU**
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.**
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): **ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**
- Published:**  
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **METHOD, SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING AND CONTROLLING DATA TRANSFER IN COMMUNICATION NETWORKS**

(57) Abstract: A method of monitoring and controlling data transfer between user terminals (4) coupled to a first communication network (7) and a second communication network (10) via a gateway (6) and a firewall (8) includes the user terminals (4) sending access requests to the gateway (6), the gateway (6) reading each access request, modifying access rules in the firewall (8) to permit access for each user terminal requesting access based on an authenticated IP address of each user terminal and monitoring simultaneously at the firewall (8) the transfer of data between each user terminal (4) and the second communication network (10). Bandwidth allocation to the terminals may be dynamically controlled on a global or local basis.